

EIMS & SIF News

July 6, 2006

Volume 1; Issue 2

Special points of interest:

- End of Year data submission is now open.
- SIF Quarterly Meeting in Richmond Sept. 18-21
- Remember to delete EIMS accounts for users who leave your division for any reason.
- EIMS Live WebEx Reports training June 26 and June 27
- EIMS Recorded WebEx Reports available July 5
- Ed Tech Conference Nov. 29-Dec. 1, 2006 in Roanoke

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Please be advised that EIMS reports are going to look **very** different than the current reports, and they are going to be renamed from

Recorded WebEx training for the new reports will be available July 11th (performance issues pushed it back from 7/5). The link is on

list of students that other divisions have been uploaded by another division signifying that may have transferred from your division or has

EIMS—Post-Release

Final and Preliminary SOL Reports to *Reports by Year* (old Final) and *Reports by Administration* (old Preliminary). In addition, we will introduce a new report's concept known as Quick Click reports. These are predetermined reports that answer common questions, but also have a drill-down feature, which makes them very powerful even for the novice computer user.

the EIMS portal page under WebEx.

On the File Management side the Transfer Report can be run on-

demand and sort columns as well as the capability of viewing students right from the report.

Go to Managing Data and click on Alert List, which is a



EIMS will be unavailable June 16 at 5:00pm and back online by mid-nite June 18th

been selected in error. This will help reduce STI issues encountered during the SRC data collections.

Since emails will be automatically generated to the EIMS Project Managers please make sure the contact information is current.

Matching Old Assessments

As you are aware EIMS loaded SOL assessments from 2000-2001 thru 2003-2004 down to the school level. There were no State Testing Identifiers associated with SOL assessments until the 2004-2005 school year.

Pearson may be able to provide a way for divisions to try to match the current student's STI with previous assessments.

The chief benefit is to have longitudinal data on students' performance going back to 2000-2001 to the present.

The downside are that the division would have to put in consid-

erable effort to match the students. The interface would be similar to the Needs Resolution interface.

Some unknown percentage may automatically match, but record that do not would have to be researched, which may include contacting other division(s) to see if the student attended that division and this may have to be done for each academic year. This is potentially a huge effort and we (DOE) want to know if the benefits outweigh the human cost to match the records. There is considerable financial cost to DOE to provide this capability.

Please note that otherwise longitudinal reporting capability has already started from the academic 2005-2006 school year going forward.

Please let me know if the DOE should consider providing this option for divisions, how strongly you feel it will benefit your division and what resources you may utilize.

Send your comments to:

peter.coleman@doe.virginia.gov

New Year Rollover Procedures for SIF Users

SIF needs to be considered when you rollover to the new year. Please see the two documents regarding New Year Rollover (NYR) under Resources (SIF New Year Rollover and Student Locator, and SIF New Year Rollover with the Edustructures SIF Agent for SASI) at:

<http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/Technology/EIMS/>

Read them completely before running the steps in the procedure.

Please note:

DO NOT INITIATE THE NEW YEARS ROLLOVER PROCEDURES UNTIL AFTER SASI AGENT 1.6 IS INSTALLED AT YOUR LOCATION.

The SASI agent 1.6 is now available and divisions with SIF can update their agent from the SASI SIF Agent menus.

If you have any questions please send them to me peter.coleman@doe.virginia.gov or doug.quinton@edstructures.com.



WARNING

com

or

kris.herakovich@pearson.com

SIF Rollout Status & SIF SIS Expansion

Over 40 divisions using SIF. 55 more planned in 06-07.

We have opened up SIF to divisions using:

- **SASI**
- **CIMS**
- **StarStudent**
- **Pentamation**
- **eSIS**

If your division would like to be one please email me at:

peter.coleman@doe.virginia.gov

Divisions who are using SIF report that they really like it, since it eliminates the need to send up records to EIMS for STIs or periodically upload a full data load to EIMS since it helps keep EIMS in sync with at

activity in the division.

I will be presenting SIF to SASI User's Group meeting August 2 at the Doubletree Hotel in Charlottesville.

"Cost = \$0

Risk = 0%"

Next SIF Rollout Wave Begins July 1st

SASI, CIMS, Pentamation and StarStudent and eSIS users sign up now to ride the next wave of SIF vertical installations.

It's as easy as A-B-C

- A. Complete a SIF survey
- B. Provide a small server.
- C. Set an installation date

Cost = \$0

Risk = 0%

The division only need to provide a small server to house the software.

Benefits include:

1. No EIMS uploads for STIs
2. No full data uploads
3. Positioned for future time & work-saver functionality

Contact me for your ID and Passcode to complete the SIF Survey at:



Don't get wiped out .

Ride the Next Wave!

Peter.Coleman@doe.virginia.gov or 804-225-2039

Introduction

The Schools Interoperability Framework (SIF) initiative brings the benefits of data interoperability to school districts across the country.

Benefits

Data Interoperability

The most common initial reason for implementing the SIF Specification is data interoperability. Moving to a SIF solution allowed for a single point of data entry, which saved time entering the data as well as troubleshooting data errors. SIF should reduce data entry time by up to two thirds freeing IT staff and others who previously performed data entry will have more time for other projects.

Improved reporting capability helps districts to keep up with increased state and federal NCLB reporting requirements.

Increase in Student Achievement

With accurate, consistent data and powerful reporting tools, division can provide teachers with student assessment data at the curriculum standard level. This provided educators with significant assistance in their efforts to differentiate instruction. The results from one division was an average total increase in district-wide student test scores from 760 to 1024, over 30% from 2002 to 2005.

Increase in Funding

An increase in funding was

an unanticipated benefit of the a SIF implementation. Enhanced reporting through better data led to increased student counts for federal and state funded programs. One such example is the \$750k increase in federal funding one out-of-state division, Western Heights, received due to its improved tracking of students eligible for free and reduced meals. With more accurate data and enhanced reporting tools, Western Heights was able to identify approximately 1,000 students per year who were previously not included in this program.

The percentage of students who are eligible for free and reduced meal status qualifies the district for additional Title I funds for disadvantaged students. The same Title I percentages also translate into eligibility for several other federally funded programs.

Improved Student Services

SIF means real-time synchronization between the student information and library systems. The librarian now has more time to focus on serving students rather than performing data entry in the old library system. The biggest benefit is that the “new student does not feel bad about holding up the [library check-out] line” while the librarian establishes a new account.

Key Success Factors

A variety of key factors affect the success of SIF implementations. Undoubtedly, the leadership and vision of the Executive Sponsor paves the way for enthu-

siasm for the project and the tolerance for change within the district.

The implementation process that seems most effective is a staged approach: implement one application at a time until it is functioning properly. Typically, districts start with the student information system because it is a main access point for student data. Implementing SIF with existing applications is quicker and easier because there are fewer process changes and less end-user application training needed.



**Commonwealth of
Virginia**

PO Box 2120

Phone: 804-225-2039

Fax: 804-786-0101

E-mail:

peter.coleman@doe.virginia.gov

YES, WE'RE ON THE WEB AT:

[HTTP://WWW.PEN.K12.VA.US/](http://www.pen.k12.va.us/)

[VDOE/TECHNOLOGY/EIMS/](http://www.pen.k12.va.us/vdoe/technology/eims/)



